



Black history? They made it!



Learn more about their story. Watch "Engine Four: The story of North Carolina's first integrated firehouse," showing this month on WSTV: Time Warner Cable channel 13 or 74.3 and AT&T UVERSE channel 99



In 1951, eight men in Winston-Salem became the first professional black firefighters to serve in North Carolina since the start of the Jim Crow era.

Ralph Black, Willie Carter, Lester Ervin, John Ford, Robert Grier, John Meredith, George Penn, and Roi Thomas broke a color barrier, and their success spurred other North Carolina cities to hire black firefighters, too.

One of them - Lester Ervin - would continue to break barriers at every stage of his career, culminating with his appointment as North Carolina's first black fire chief.

During Black History Month, the city of Winston-Salem salutes these trailblazers in the fire service for their role in making Black history.



Winston-Salem



JOIN THE CITY FOR THESE BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Public Safety Black History Month Celebration, Sunday, February 21, 3 p.m.,
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, 4129 Northampton Drive

Black History Month Showcase of Song, Saturday, February 27, Noon,
Old Salem Visitor's Center, 900 Old Salem Road.